

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) Star-shaped conveyor for transporting or taking out empty plastics containers or bottles to or from a machine of a type comprising a plurality of indentations (4) uniformly distributed along the periphery of two spaced apart plates (2 and 3), characterized by the fact vacuum is provided in each indentation capable of holding the empty bottle tightly against the indentation surface for a predetermined circumferential arc.
2. (original) Star-shaped conveyor according to claim 1 characterized by the fact each indentation is provided with a box element supported by the lower plate (2) defining openings (11), the number of openings (11) being equal to the number of indentations, openings (11) are arranged along a circumference overlaying a slot (12) defined on a cylindrical chamber (14) in which vacuum is created, each box element has a vertical opening (9) made in one (10) of its faces which follows the curvilinear profile of the indentation.
3. (currently amended) Star-shaped conveyor according to claim 2 ~~the preceding claims~~, characterized by the fact the slot (12) extends along an arc comprised between 90° and 180° starting from the discharge of an operative machine to the inlet of a conveyor

for transporting bottles.

4.(original) Machine for aligning and orienting plastics bottles of a type comprising a star-shaped conveyor located at the discharge for taking out the bottles and provided with a plurality of indentations uniformly arranged along the periphery of two spaced apart plates, characterized by the fact vacuum is provided in each indentation capable of holding and transporting the empty bottle tightly against the indentation surface for a predetermined circumferential arc.

5.(original) Machine according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that the star-shaped conveyor is driven by the same driving means of the aligning and orienting machine.

6.(original) Machine according to claim 4, characterized by the fact the star-shaped conveyor has it own driving means independent from the machine driving means.